

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace ¶¶ [0004] and [0010] with the following amended paragraphs:

**[0004]** ~~Is often~~ It is often desirable in the networking context to maximize the amount of data that can be propagated through the network. It is also desirable for economic reasons to minimize the hardware used to create the network infrastructure. To accomplish both of these objectives, multiplexing schemes are used to transmit multiple signals along a single data path such as a fiber optic fiber. One particularly useful and successful method of multiplexing is wavelength division multiplexing. In the fiber – optic systems, wavelength division multiplexing includes transmitting various individual signals along a single fiber, with each signal being used to transmit a different light wavelength. To accomplish wavelength division multiplexing, several specialized optical components are needed, including demultiplexers (demuxes), multiplexers (muxes), mux/demux modules, and optical add drop multiplexers (OADMs).

**[0010]** All other wavelengths remaining on a ~~the multiplexed transmission~~ the multiplexed transmission 104 continue through the OADM 300 and exit through an east output port 310, where they may continue to propagate on the fiber-optic network. If the OADM is a bi-directional module, such as OADM 300, a multiplexed transmission traveling in a westerly direction enters the OADM 300 at the west input port 318, drops the particular signal through the west drop port 320, adds a signal through the west add port 322, and propagates the remaining wavelengths through the west output port 324.